

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

The allowance of claims 1, 3-14, 16-17, 19-24 and 44-45 is noted appreciatively by the applicants.

By way of the amendment instructions above, independent claims 1 and 46 have been revised so as to provide visual line indentations corresponding to the claimed subject matter. Withdrawal of the objection advanced against such claims under 37 CFR §1.75(i) is therefore in order.

Independent claim 46 has also been revised so as to emphasize that the induced stress according to the present invention is achieved by virtue of a mismatch of the coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) as between the fiber optic condition sensor and the magneto restrictive coating material. Thus, claim 46 has been amended in a manner similar to that presented previously with respect to the other now allowed independent claims.

It is submitted that the amendments to independent claim 46 render moot the Examiner's rejection of claims 46-47 under 35 USC §102(b) based on the newly cited Lenz et al reference. Specifically, while Lenz et al does in fact disclose an optical fiber clad with a magneto restrictive material, it is really at this point that any perceived similarities with the present invention cease.

Thus, the Examiner will note that Lenz et al does not disclose or even remotely suggest employing a fiber optic condition sensor which exhibits an initial wavelength at a zero state prior to being operatively associated with the magneto restrictive (MR) coating material such that each of the MR coating material and the fiber optic condition sensor has a coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) which is sufficiently different from one another so as to induce compressive stress on the fiber optic condition sensor to

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achieve a wavelength change thereof during a normal state which is greater than about 0.1 nm relative to the initial wavelength of the fiber optic condition sensor at the zero state to thereby achieve the predetermined strain characteristic which is responsive to a magnetic field. Thus, Lenz et al does not suggest at all that a fiber optic sensor may be employed to detect a change in the predetermined strain characteristic which is indicative of magnetic field strength due to the induced compressive stress achieved by the different CTE of the MR coating material and the sensor in response to exposure to the magnetic field.

Independent claim 46 and claim 47 dependent therefrom are therefore patentably distinct over the applied Lenz et al patent. Withdrawal of the rejection advanced against such claims under 35 USC §102(b) is therefore also in order.

Every effort has again been made to advance prosecution of this application to allowance. Therefore, in view of the amendments and remarks above, applicant suggests that all claims are in condition for allowance and Official Notice of the same is solicited.

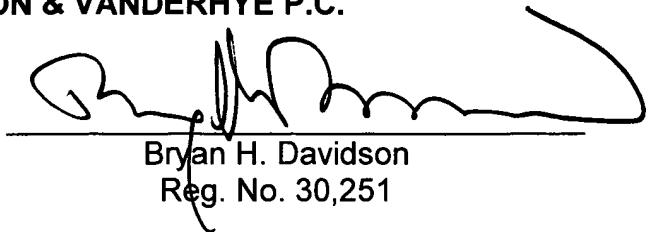
Should any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney so that the same may be resolved without the need for an additional written action and reply.

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An early and favorable reply on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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